



May 18, 2021

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: **Transition Period Prior to Repeal of COVID-related Executive Orders**

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), Urban Counties of California (UCC), Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), League of California Cities (CalCities), California Special Districts Association (CSDA), California Association of Local Agency Formation Commissions (CALAFCO), Association of California School Administrators (ACSA), Association of California Healthcare Districts (ACHD), California Municipal Utilities Association (CMUA), and the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA), we write to respectfully request that you assist local governing bodies by providing time to prepare for the eventual repeal of COVID-related Executive Orders, including those that allow local legislative bodies to hold public meetings remotely. While our respective members welcome the opportunity to return to in-person public meetings and events with the improvements in public health metrics over the last few months, local government leaders around the state have considerable work to do to effectively transition back to conducting the public’s business in meetings where elected and appointed officials, staff, and the public are physically present.

As you are aware, local agencies have been operating under the provisions of Executive Order N-25-20 and N-29-20, which you signed on March 12 and 17, 2020, authorizing local agencies to hold public meetings via teleconferencing and requiring public comment to be presented electronically. These Executive Orders also waived the requirement to post the remote meeting locations (typically the home addresses of elected and appointed officials and staff), as well as making those locations accessible to the public. Since then, our members have dramatically shifted the way they conduct their public business to maintain the health and safety of their staff and the public generally, while continuing to include the public in the important work of our local agencies. Returning to conducting business in person will require time and effort to ensure continued public health and safety, even with the state’s improved public health status.

In light of the Center for Disease Control’s May 13 announcement that vaccinated individuals can resume normal activities and in anticipation of the June 15 date for reopening the state, we respectfully request a period of transition of at least 30 days to allow local agencies time to effectively adjust to whatever new state or local public health and safety requirements may exist to ensure a deliberative and collaborative approach to return to in-person public meetings.

We greatly appreciate your leadership during the pandemic to ensure that the public's business would continue unabated and look forward to a return to normalcy. To the extent that you are considering repealing Executive Orders from early in the pandemic, we would greatly appreciate enough time to adjust operations to avoid unnecessary disruption or confusion and to allow us to safely transition back to in-person public meetings. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you wish to discuss further.


Sincerely,



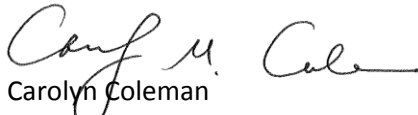
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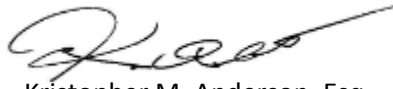
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cc: Jim DeBoo, Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor
Ana Matosantos, Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Governor
Ronda Paschal, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor